

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) A surgical band designed to be implanted in the body of a patient around a biological organ or organs, consisting of a pouch or a tube for altering the flow area of said organ when it is clamped by the band, said band comprising:

a flexible strip designed to be substantially closed at its two ends in order to form a closed loop; said strip comprising an annular compression chamber designed to contain a filling fluid; said chamber being defined by an internal wall designed to be in contact with the organ being clamped and a dorsal wall,

wherein said dorsal wall consists of a bead having an inner face situated opposite the chamber, said inner face has at least one longitudinal slot for influencing the deformation of the internal wall with a view to limiting the presence of surface irregularities in the area of the internal wall, when the strip forms a closed loop.

2. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the internal wall comprises a membrane.

3. (currently amended) The band of Claim 1, wherein the chamber ~~is a chamber having~~has a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing said filling fluid.

4. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the bead has a homogeneous property and the longitudinal slot is arranged entirely within the bead.

5. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the internal wall comprises a first elastomer material, and the dorsal wall comprises a second elastomer material.

6. (previously presented) The band of Claim 5, wherein said first and second materials are identical.
7. (previously presented) The band of Claim 6, wherein said first and second materials have substantially identical hardness levels.
8. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the internal wall is made integral with the dorsal wall.
9. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the inner face of the bead has a single longitudinal slot positioned substantially at the center of said face.
10. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the longitudinal slot has a substantially rectangular-shaped cross section.
11. (currently amended) The band of Claim 1, wherein the strip is in the form of a solid tube having a substantially elliptical cross section, said tube being hollowed out so as to form both the chamber and the longitudinal slot, said chamber and slot communicating in order to form a single cavity whose cross-sectional shape substantially resembles that of a mushroom whose stem is formed by the slot, while the-a cap is formed by the chamber.
12. (currently amended) The band of Claim 11, wherein the cross section of the chamber has an overall quarter-like circle segment appearance.
13. (previously presented) The band of Claim 11, wherein the cross section of the chamber has an overall crescent-like appearance.
14. (previously presented) The band of Claim 1, wherein the band constitutes a gastroplasty band designed to be implanted around the stomach or the oesophagus.

15. (withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a surgical band designed to be implanted in the body of a patient around a biological organ or organs, the band comprising a pouch or a tube for altering the flow area of said organ when the organ is clamped by the band in which is made an annular compression chamber, designed to contain a filling fluid:

- said chamber being defined by an internal wall designed to be in contact with the organ being clamped and a dorsal wall,
- said method comprising
 - (a) making the bead intended to form the dorsal wall; said bead having an inner face situated opposite the chamber, and
 - (b) creating said interior surface , with at least one longitudinal slot for influencing the deformation of the internal wall with a view to limiting the presence of surface irregularities in the area of the internal wall , when the strip forms a closed loop.

16. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the internal wall comprises a membrane.

17. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the chamber is a chamber having a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing filling fluid.

18. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the chamber , the internal and dorsal walls, as well as said at least one slot are produced by a single operation of injecting a single elastomer material into a mold.

19. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 15, wherein the method is used to manufacture a gastroplasty band designed to be implanted around the stomach or the oesophagus.

20. (currently amended) The band of Claim 2, wherein the chamber ~~is a chamber having~~has a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing said filling fluid.

21. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 16, wherein the chamber is a chamber having a volume that can be adjusted by injecting or withdrawing filling fluid.